

The Dogumentary

26th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

July 2008

July Meeting at Thorne Brothers

July meeting is July 10. We'll meet at Thorne Brothers at 6 p.m. Pizza and sodas will be served. The plan is to go through the trip details, cover any other club business, and then shop. Thorne Brothers is planning to get us a speaker, but if that falls through, we start the shopping part of the meeting earlier. All trip participants will receive their trip information, including fishing pairings (which are subject to change before, during and after the trip), trip t-shirts and road music.

2008 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

July 10	Monthly Meeting
July 19-26	Rock&Roll Musky Tour
Aug 7	Monthly Meeting
Sep 4	Monthly Meeting
Sep 13	Multispecies Tourney
Oct 2	Monthly Meeting
Oct 11	SM Bass Tourney
Nov 6	Annual Banquet
Dec 4	Monthly Meeting

The 2008 tournament details are on the last page of the Dogumentary

★ **19 Days** ★

Until LOTW!

Get to work on that Bagbalm Tan!

From the Desk of the President, Little Angel



Sorry I missed all the fun at Sylvia. I hope the tournament went well.

I had the privilege of going to Alaska this year with two other couples and would like to share a bit about a couple of the fishing trips we went on.

We went on a one-day trip fishing for halibut. The trip was out of Seward and after a three-hour boat trip we anchored in about 90 feet of water. The fishing was so great at that spot we stayed there most of the day. We ran just short of a full boat limit with the largest being just shy of 100 lbs. I caught my limit of two fish, one at 45 lbs. and one at about 15 lbs. Ron, one of the guys I was fishing with, got his limit of halibut and one lingcod that we thought weighed about 50 lbs. Lingcod was out of season so the fish had to be released. We were able to ship home approximately 50 pounds of halibut filets.

The next day, we tried our luck at king salmon fishing with little success. We got a guide and

took a float boat (no motors were allowed) and the guide rowed the boat to different areas of the river. There were four of us in the boat with the guide. We ran flat lines out the front of the boat with the rods in rod holders, two out each side and two out the front, and let the current take the lures out the front.

After a full day of fishing only one fisherman in the boat got three bites with two being hooked for awhile. (Wimpy hook sets.) While the trip was disappointing as far as the fishing (the weather has put the main king run about 1 ½-2 weeks behind) the scenery on the float down the river was remarkable.

Our travels took us from Anchorage to Homer on to Seward and north to Talkeetna. We also spent time Denali National Park and Preserve and then headed back to Anchorage. It was a 12-day trip with a lot to see and some beautiful country.

I will bring some of the photos to the next meeting if anyone would like to see more. See you at Thorne Brothers July 10th.

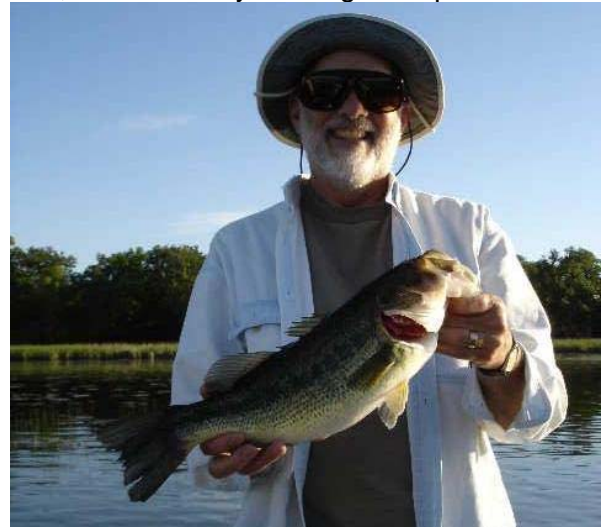
Good Numbers, Smaller Size at Sylvia

Twenty-Three Waterdogs took Friday June 20 off from work to try out the old adage that 'Even a bad day of fishing is better than a good day of work', but it turned out to be a good day of fishing for all. It was the club's first ever 'no pre-fishing allowed' bass tournament on Lake Sylvia by Annandale, which tested the decision making of the teams even more than usual. In the end, the 11 teams caught enough largemouth bass that a full club limit of 10 keeper-fish for each team was just 3-fish short of the full 110-fish limit at weigh-in.

For the second tournament in a row, the weather was unusually non-tournament like in that it was clear, calm and sunny for most of the day. Only after the boats were pulled from the water at 3:00 did mother nature show up with a free car and boat wash for the way home. Because of the thunderstorms that hit at that time, Griz did the calculating on the way home, so the winning teams missed out on their victory pictures at the landing.

Waterdogs found bass shallow and deep and caught them on a variety of lures, as you would expect. The larger fish were generally found in shallower water, however, as the deep weeds were still a little sparse, and some areas of the shallows offered better cover. The number of bass caught was good, but there were also many undersized sub-10 inch fish caught. In many of the 10-fish limits, there were some 11 and 12-inch fish weighed in. There were so many small fish in the lake, that it was hard to cull up a list of 10 fish to a respectable size. That also had the effect of keeping everyone guessing on how well they might be doing compared to other teams. On average, the bass limits caught this year were about 2/3 of the size of the previous two years from the Carver County tournaments.

The tournament was won by FD and FB (Father Bertha), who found larger average-sized fish in a lily pad bay, and caught the majority of the fish on Scum Frogs. Their weight for their 10 fish stringer was 21.2 pounds, which is about 10 pounds less than the winning poundages of the previous two years. In second place was the 3-man team of Felix, Chips, and Shatner who got an 18 shallow, but also caught fish in several other structures. In third were Nasty and Griz, with the large fish of the tournament at 18.5", caught by Griz with just minutes to spare. Unfortunately, the fish was tossed back without a photo, and now may never get his picture taken.



Felix and his Scummy Friend

In fourth was Helen and Otis, and in fifth was the team of Chainsaw and Greenstick, who caught fish despite being on vacation that day. Rounding out the top 6 teams were Fluffy and Meat with a 10-fish limit, and none kept.

Hide and Seek Bass

By FD

The no-prefishing condition of the Sylvia Lake bass tournament presented a challenge for everybody, especially those guys who make a practice of regularly pre-fishing tournament lakes. I was paired up with Father Bertha, and before the tournament we talked strategy, as I'm sure everyone did. I had noticed a large number of dwellings on the lake on the map provided by Fluffy, so I assumed that the lake would be a dock-fishing dream, which is one of my favorite ways to fish. So, when we started the tournament, we went straight across the lake to a long row of docks on the east side. After fishing many hot-looking docks for the first hour, we hadn't even had a good hit, so we moved to another row of docks. All this while, we could see Perp and Bud fishing the deeper water off the island we had lunch on, and saw them boat two fish. After that, we also moved out to the deep break, and caught one 11" bass, and lost another small one. It was now 9:00 and we had one 11" on the board. We figured that the docks weren't working because there was no cover leading up to them from deeper water.

We sat in the boat for a minute to figure something else out, and Bertha said that Larry Hanson, the speaker at the meeting recommended the bays on the north end of West Sylvia as a good place for bass, so away we went. The main bassy bay up there was a lily-pad choked bay that was 2-4' deep with lots of other kinds of weeds, and just full of life. We saw many carp doing their thing in there along with lots of sunnies and baby bass, dogfish and even a small northern. The frogs were also croaking all the time in there.

We put on some scum frogs, and I quickly caught 4 keeper bass out of the pads. It was 9:30 and we were at 5 fish, so I told Bertha to start holding up his end of the bargain, so he switched to a chartreuse scum frog, like the one I was using. Match the hatch, I guess. In about 15 minutes, he was also up to 5 keepers, and we added many more after that. By lunch time we were culling up to 13" on the low end. On our way out of the bay, I looked down and said 'There's a 15 or 16

just sitting by the side of the boat". Bertha dropped a 4" pumpkinseed Senko next to it and it slurped it in. It was a 17", which turned out to be our biggest fish of the day.



Bertha Short-Lines a 17 into the Boat

During lunch it was hard to get a handle on how well our 13-17" limit stacked up. We heard of other limits and an 18"-er, so we figured we still had to work for more. After lunch, we went right back to the lily pad bay, as we had not hit one side of it too well on the first time through. Then it was more of the same pandemonium, to the point where you expected to get bit on every cast. We managed to cull our 3-13's up to 14 and 15"-ers. And although we also lost many fish, which is typical on the scum frogs, I can't say that any were bigger than the 17". We sure beat the bejeebers out of our scum frogs, and didn't lose either one, and sure got our money's worth out of those baits.

And so we ended up with one 17", and nine fish from 14 to 15.5", which seemed OK, but we had no idea it would be a winning stringer, which we found out on the way home. It's always a good time to fish with Father Bertha, and when they're going, it's a real hoot!

On our way back to the access, I noticed the bay just to the north of the access had lots of pads and also docks in it. Maybe that would have been a good spot too, but we'll have to wait till next time.

Suzy's LOTW Update

Less than a month until our annual rock 'n' roll musky pilgrimage to Lake of the Woods. Here's a quick update about all of the activity leading up to our annual extravaganza:

T-shirts. Bring \$20 to the July 10 meeting for your trip t-shirt. If you're picking up for a guest, bring his money, too.

Big Fish Pot. Bring another \$20 to the July 10 meeting for the Big Fish Pot. Old Fart will collect.

Helen Out; Mushroom In. As in Reed "Mushroom" Sanderson, Laun's brother. While Laun cannot make the trip this year, his brother can. If you'll recall, Reed joined us for the annual trip last year and got so hooked on the fishing, he asked if he could join us for this year's trip. A little bit wiser, a little more experienced, Reed will be prepared with new muskie gear in tote. Mushroom's shot at the big girls came when Tom "Helen" Keller had to drop out of the trip due to scheduling conflicts.

23.8. We're now at 24, well, actually 23.8

guys going on the trip as Sticky needs to leave on Thursday AM to study for his medical boards, and because his spouse, Jeannie will be traveling on those last two days as well. In other words, with a 18-year-old, high school grad in the house, can you spell P-A-R-T-Y.

Doug Johnson. Suzy and Shorty will be fishing with Doug Johnson on Wednesday during the trip. Doug still has an opening on Friday, if any Dogs would like to go out for a day with the legendary guru. Cost is \$275 + gas.

Jerky. Each cabin needs to tell Griz how much jerky they would like. Griz has once again volunteered to make jerky for all LOTW trip participants.

Goes without saying. Now is a good time (not the day before the trip), to locate your passport or an original birth certificate, which will be required when going through Canadian customs. Also pack your RABC permit, your Ontario fishing license, Minnesota fishing license and driver's license.

Water levels. At LOTW are slightly higher than normal.

2008 Waterdogs Tournament Series

Date	Species	Lake	Dogs in Charge
✓3/15	Trout	WI Streams	Helen, Perp
✓5/3 Cancelled	Crappie	Pokegama by Pine City	Griz, Banana Boy
✓5/31	Walleye/SM	Green Lake (Spicer)	Farm Boy, Bud
✓6/20	Bass	Sylvia by Annandale	Lil Angel, Chips, Fluffy
9/13	Multi	Mille Lacs	Mama's, Greenstick, Otis
10/11	SM Bass	Rum River	Suzy